



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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August 20, 1985

TO: Memo to File

FROM: James S. Leatherwood, Soils Specialist *JS*

RE: American Gilsonite Company, Bonanza Operations,
ACT/047/010, Uintah County, Utah

On August 13, 1985, Susan Linner, James Leatherwood, Dave Cline, Randy Harden, Dave Darby and Rick Summers of the Division, accompanied by LeRoy Fyock (Environmental Specialist) visited several mine sites on the American Gilsonite Property. The first site visited on the Bonanza Gilsonite vein had a filtration pond of cobble size gypsum to lower the pH of the discharge from an average of 9.3 to 8.8. Other sites had this filtrate bed addition as with sites being constructed for future gilsonite productivity.

Two of the no longer used process tailing ponds were also visited. The tailings pond on the west side was reclaimed and revegetated. A good production of grasses was evident along with a fair density of undesirable vegetation (Salsola). The two other process tailing ponds have not been reclaimed at this time.

In addition we visited the Rainbow vein that had been closed by explosives and regrading. As the Division requested, the area had been sprayed with 2,4-D in the spring of 1985 to control the population of undesirable vegetation. Evidence of success was evident along with sparse young growth of weeds. The desirable vegetation was healthy but thinner in density than the need be. Because there is no topsoil available for reclamation, the soil is compact in this area. This may be one of the major reasons of poor vegetation development.

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